

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00
INRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01 /051 W
-----311523Z 097352 /43

O R 311500Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4329
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
IN FURFJA/AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
USELMLO
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 896

CINCEUR FOR POLAD
CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAGB-CI

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAIR, US, WB, UK, FR, UR
SUBJECT: NEAR MISS IN SOUTH CORRIDOR MARCH 24

1. PAN AM FLIGHT 699 ON MARCH 24 REPORTED THAT A
"SILVER DELTA-WINGED JET" APPROACHED IT ON A HEAD-ON
COLLISION COURSE AT 1518 HOURS LOCAL TIME AND PASSED AT
A DISTANCE OF 70-80 METERS. A NEAR- MISS REPORT WAS FILED.
PAN AM PLANE WAS OUTBOUND FROM BERLIN AT 10,000 FEET NEAR
ROSLAU IN THE SOUTH CORRIDOR, AND WAS FOLLOWING FLIGHT PLAN
THAT HAD BEEN PASSED TO SOVIETS. PASSENGERS WERE UNAWARE
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OF INCIDENT. U.S. DUTY CONTROLLER IN BASC ASKED SOVIETS
FOR IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO SOVIET
RESPONSE AIRCRAFT WAS A SOVIET FIGHTER,
"UNDER CONSTANT AND STEADY RADIO CONTROL," WHICH DID NOT
APPROACH PAN AM AIRCRAFT CLOSER THAN 400 METERS WHILE
CROSSING CORRIDOR AT 3,600 METER ALTITUDE.

2. WE HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE PAN AM REPORT WAS INCORRECT, THEREFOR, U.S. ACTING CHIEF CONTROLLER, WITH ALLIED CONCURRENCE, READ STATEMENT TO SOVIET CHIEF CONTROLLER IN BASC ON MARCH 31 IN WHICH FACTS OF CASE WERE REPEATED. U.S. STATEMENT NOTED THAT ACTION OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT CREATED COLLISION HAZARD IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF QUADRIpartite FLIGHT RULES AND COMPLAINED THAT INITIAL SOVIET RESPONSE WAS INSUFFICIENT. STATEMENT FURTHER EMPHASIZED ALLIED CONCERN OVER THIS INCIDENT AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF MAINTENANCE OF SAFE FLYING PRACTICES. U.S. STATEMENT CALLED ON SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO PREVENT SUCH INCIDENTS AND TO ENSURE THAT RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS WERE PUNISHED.

3. SOVIET CHIEF CONTROLLER INDICATED INCIDENT WOULD BE REINVESTIGATED BUT NOTED INFORMALLY THAT SOVIETS HAD PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE THAT INCIDENT DID NOT OCCUR AS PAN AM PILOT CLAIMED.

4. WE HAVE NO REASON AT THIS TIME TO BELIEVE INCIDENT WAS INTENTIONAL. (INCIDENT WAS OVER IN A BRIEF MOMENT; FIGHTER DID NOT PURSUE OR HARASS PAN AM AIRCRAFT.)

5. TEXTS OF STATEMENTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN BASC MONTHLY REPORT.

6. USCOB CONCURS. GEORGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, AIR TRAFFIC, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, ALLEGATIONS, AIR ROUTES, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL00896
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770110-0931
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977031/aaaaair.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: df8607ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Type: TE
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